between the years 1931 and 1941 and when Government said that compulsion is not considered to be necessary at present, they meant as I tried to point out a few days ago, that every effort was being made to see whether by compulsion we can get maximum attendance at schools. We had tried the more obvious methods and we have not quite succeeded and we are trying other methods. We wanted to be sure if even without compulsion, attendance would not improve.

In the second place, conditions today are such that children who were attending schools in the normal conditions find it difficult to continue for economic reasons. These conditions must disappear and the present abnormal economic condition must also disappear in course of time, so that to base an argument on the present condition either of education or of employment, may not be quite correct. That is what the Government meant by saying they do not consider compulsion was necessary in the present state of affairs.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: In the light of the answers given here and the failure on the part of the Government to answer these questions, I do not find any useful purpose will be served by my pursuing the matter further. I would, however, request that such important questions on Education may be answered before the Education Budget comes up.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know the ground for refusing the sanction ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Covernment)*: The answer is there.

Mr. President: The answer was given by the Hon'ble Member for Education

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Sir, it is a matter affecting the privilege of the House. Under section 25 of the Government of Cochin Act, certain matters requires previous sanction. But this subject does not require sanction and it will be clear from the proceedings of this House, that there was a former bill, Compulsory Education Bill, which was considered by this House and referred to a Select Committee.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: And thrown out by the Select Committee.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Is it the policy of the Government that sanction will not be given ? Is that their policy ?

Mr. President: The question has already been answered by the Hon'ble Member for Edecation.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Do you consider that compulsory primary education is not necessary ?

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member for Education has already explained the position.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I submit it is a very inconvenient question to answer.

TAPIOCA CONTROL

46. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the extreme hardship and inconvenience caused to the cultivators on account of the "Tapioca Control Order, 1118" recently promulgated by the Government;

(*b*) have Government considered the extreme difficulty or impossibility of drying tapioca in the rainy months, Edavam, Mithunam and Karkadagam; if so what steps are taken to relieve the cultivators in the matter;

(*c*) have Government considered the likelihood of such valuable tapioca crops being wasted in case the cultivators are not allowed to take the crops before floods set in?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: (*a*) No. The tapioca Control Order does not cause any extreme hardship or inconvenience to cultivators. A little inconvenience may perhaps have been caused in as much as it has interfered slightly with the freedom of the people to dispose of their stuff freely. But this is inevitable in view of the present food position of the country.

(*b*) During the rainy months when it was found difficult to dry tapioca all possible facilities were rendered to the cultivators to move the stock to places where they could be sold.

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(c) Yes. The Government are very anxious to see that the tapioca grown in the country is made available for the consumption of the people without being wasted or damaged and the Government have taken all necessary steps to see that no amount of tapioca is wasted or damaged on account of the working of the Tapioca Control Order.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: What I want to point out is on account of the Tapioca Control Order, during the months of Medam and Edavam, about thousand tons of tapioca has been spoiled because it cannot be dried. We cannot pluck tapioca without permission and permits will be given only for drying it. I ask, during the rainy season how can we dry it? In Pariyaram, Chalakkudi and such other places, about thousand tons of tapioca has been spoiled or damaged.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There is no compulsion that they should dry it and then sell it to us. The order was only that it would be well if tapioca is dried and then sold to us, but instructions were also issued that wherever it was not possible for cultivators to dry and then sell it to us, we should purchase it raw also, and arrangements were made by the department to cut and dry tapioca. The difficulty pointed out by the Hon'ble Member arose because owing to the cyclone, rain set in earlier and some cultivators were hard hit. There was some damage, not because there was any order compelling them to dry and sell it to Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Are Government aware that in Chittur Taluk, the people are not accustomed to eat tapioca root?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Our friend, the Hon'ble Member for Chittur-Rural, recently tried it there and the people there liked it very much.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Well, will the Hon'ble Director of Food Supplies make some exemption in the case of the Chittur Taluk?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*; There is not much tapioca cultivation in the Chittur Taluk, except on the Nelliampathi Hills.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: No, it is cultivated at Nemmara also.

Mr. President: What exemption do you require?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: They may be given freedom to take it outside. Nobody in Nemmara uses tapioca and planter Mr. Harihara Ayyar found it impossible to sell the tapioca that he had cultivated.

Mr. President: Let him dry it and Government would take it up.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: During rainy season it may be difficult. This may be considered.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: We may be allowed to put supplementary questions for questions 47, 48, 49 and 50, all relating to the Tapioca Control Order.

Mr. President: The questions stand in the name of different members.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Sir, I have no objection.

Mr. President: Well, a joint reply may be given to these.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I will answer the questions first, and then supplementary questions may be put.

47. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they had issued orders to tapioca cultivators to collect, cut and dry the same for sale to Government;

(b) whether the aforesaid orders have been cancelled or modified;

(c) if answer to (b) is yes, why they were modified?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: (a) Those cultivators who offered to sell their stuff to Government and were willing to cut and dry the same before sale were asked to do so.

(b) When it was found that due to the sudden changes of weather the cultivators could not cut and dry their stuff as promised by them previously, such orders were modified.

(c) Please see answer to (b).

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48. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) why the commandeering of the tapioca crop was cancelled;

(*b*) whether they have taken any steps to see that the stock with the cultivators is made available for the consumers instead of being stored up for sale at higher prices in the future prospectively?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) There has been no commandeering of the tapioca crop. Government were purchasing whatever quantity was required for distribution under the rationing scheme.

(*b*) The Government have purchased tapioca in large quantities both inside and outside the State and made it available to the public for consumption through Fair Price shops and licensed retailers at controlled rates. In addition to this retailers were also made to purchase tapioca direct from the cultivators and sell it to the public at controlled rates. So, there is little chance of cultivators hoarding their stock.

49. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when and why the retail selling price of tapioca (raw) was enhanced from six to seven pies per lb.;

(*b*) what quantity has been purchased by the Government at 6 pies per lb.;

(*c*) whether they will be pleased to make any further payment to those who hold the stock to the Government at six pies in view of the enhancement made;

(*d*) when the price of sundried chips was enhanced;

(*e*) what quantity has been purchased at the old prices?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) On 12th June 1943. The retail selling price of raw tapioca was enhanced in order to give the retailer a reasonable margin of profit after meeting the incidental charges such as transport, etc., expenses.

(*b*) Government have not purchased any quantity at 6 pies per lb.

(*c*) The question does not arise in view of the answer to (*b*).

(*d*) 12th June 1943.

(*e*) 12,019 cwts. 38-3/7 lbs.

50. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have collected any statistics to show the total quantity of tapioca available for consumption during Mithunam and Karkadagam in the villages of Pariyaram, Melur, Vellarappilly and Malayattur?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes. 960 tons of raw tapioca approximately.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, with regard to the answer to sub-division (*c*) of question 46, may I know whether all the tapioca produced in the State is consumed by the people of this State?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: According to our calculations, our production is not sufficient for our consumption. All the tapioca produced in the State is not sufficient for the consumption of our people.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: On what is that position based? On what basis is that statement made, namely, that all the tapioca produced in the State is not even sufficient for consumption at home.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Because a large quantity was brought to the State from Travancore before the control was introduced.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Are we getting any supply from Travancore now?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: The answer is on the presumption based on the fact that tapioca was being imported from Travancore. Am I right?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: With regard to answer (*a*) to question 47, the question is whether they had issued orders to tapioca cultivators to collect, cut and dry

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the same for sale to the Government, that is exactly the wording of the order, I think I have read it. The answer is, those cultivators who offered to sell their stuff to Government and were willing to cut and dry the same before sale were asked to do so. Are the Government sure that this conditional clause was there in the order and those who were willing to cut and dry it alone were asked to cut and dry and stock, or whether it was an omnibus order that you may cut, dry and keep? What is the position? Was the reservation there?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The reservation was there. Only those who were willing to do that were asked to do so.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: I have got an order issued in this connection. It reads.—

"The petitioner is allowed to collect tapioca from his field. He will cut and dry the stuff well for sale to Government. Proper accounts should be maintained, copies thereof should be submitted to this office until the entire stock is exhausted".

This is an order from the Assistant Supplies Officer, Vadakkancheri, dated 4th Edavam 1118, in reply to a petition submitted to him. If the order has got any reference to the petition, may I take it that we can as well presume that the original order was that one should take permission before he actually collected tapioca.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The order was to purchase raw tapioca also. It was only that we wanted to encourage people to try to sell it dried. Both orally and in writing, instructions were issued that in the case of those who were not willing to dry it, the Government should purchase it raw.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I take it that this order now read is a misinterpretation of the order referred to by the Director of Food Supplies?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes, it is a misinterpretation of the orders.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether this sort of complaints have been brought to the notice of the Government?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Faod Supplies)*: Yes, I have received complaints, and I have again issued orders not to insist on dried tapioca alone.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will the Government be pleased to see that such calamitous instances do not occur?

Mr. President: The hon'ble members must realise that a few mistakes are likely to occur. We must expect some mistakes of this kind. We will try to minimise as much as possible such mistakes.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: I have absolutely no complaint. Since the Government were pleased to answer that it is a misinterpretation of the order, I only submit that they may be pleased to see in matters of such importance, where the stocks become useless, (if such things happen in other crops also, what will be our position) the Assistant Supplies Officers and other executive officers are given clear orders, they are placed in a position to interpret the orders correctly by the orders being absolutely to the point and strictly in consonance with the spirit in which they are conceived.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether subsequent to these instructions being issued to the officers, correcting the interpretation, have there not been orders that the whole stock may be purchased in the dried form, that if people wanted tapioca to be purchased, the parties concerned must offer dried tapioca.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The instructions were, if they could find sale in the shops, they could be purchased, or they should be taken to a place where they will find a sale.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: What is the quantity roughly, handled by the Fair Price Shops and the licensed retail shop-keepers from day to day; I want only a rough idea. I am attempting to show that your statement that the tapioca produced in the State is not even sufficient for consumption is wrong and the real position is that we have a large quantity of excess after over and above what is purchased, actually purchased, not what is purchasable is not the position, what is actually purchased from day today, much more than what is required for consumption. Because of the whirl-wind drive given by the Hon'ble Minister during last year, areas which would not have been cultivated at all, large extensive areas were cultivated. The result is that even today large areas of cultivated topioca gardens and parambas

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are in existence and there is a good production. That is the position. There are, Sir, good demands coming from outside for Rs. 1,000, 2,000 and 3,000 for wholesale purchase, but our hands are tied. The consequence must be that the Government must be ready to purchase the whole stock.

Mr. President: I have issued strict instructions that every possible effort should be made to purchase tapioca in large quantities and stock it. There is a shortage of food stuffs. We want to get as much tapioca as possible and distribute it on the widest possible scale through the Fair Price Shops and the licensed retail shops. At the present time when there is not enough food in the State, we make every effort to purchase as much tapioca as we possibly can and distribute it, then the position will become better.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* While appreciating the good intentions of the Government and the very valuable work that they are doing in that direction, we have to point out the difficulties experienced by the cultivators and the consequent loss which the people are put to because of the working of this order. From the Hon'ble President's statement it is clear that in these days of food shortage, we have to see that we should take particular care to supplement our food production and one item of our food is tapioca. There is no meaning in not allowing the cultivator to sell it, the Government being not prepared to purchase the stock as a whole. There are two difficulties. In the first place, the cultivator does not get the return. In the second place, the area is not cleared for purpose of plantation for the next year. I am myself a tapioca grower and I have experienced these difficulties, but I have been able to get over those through other ways, of course not anything bad. I am speaking on behalf of the poor persons who have cultivated areas much in excess of their capacity, with borrowed capital. I want to bring in this connection to the notice of the Government a particular case. There was a Pulaya who had cultivated about half an acre of land. For that he had an offer of Rs. 25, he sold it without knowing of the control order, and a portion of the advance was utilised for thatching his house. The next day, the hands of law moved, the man was arrested, bail was not allowed, the man was imprisoned; he had to be in jail for 1½ months; in the meanwhile the tapioca going to rot.

Mr. President: I have already explained the position. We were short of food. Tapioca was used as a substitute and it helped to keep us from starvation. A large amount of tapioca was unfortunately being smuggled out of the State and we had to take strong measures to control it. Admittedly due to early rains and other unexpected difficulties hardship was caused in some cases. The tapioca grown in our State is being used in the State and I may assure Hon'ble Members that every effort will be made to improve matters and there will be improvement, as we gain experience in the working of the order, so that the tapioca grown in the State may be used in the State itself and the tapioca growers do get a reasonable return for it. The other day, the Hon'ble the European Member was telling me that he was prepared to offer us, a considerable quantity of tapioca at even below the fixed price. We try to make the price fair and also we will if necessary, improve our machinery so that the tapioca growers will not in any way be at any disadvantage in getting rid of their stock. I admit in the initial stages there was some difficulty. But we have to realise that in these times of shortage we have to feed the people and tapioca is an extremely useful article that is also widely used outside the ration to fill those parts of the stomach which the ration is not enough to fill.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* How does the price of tapioca compare between Travancore and Cochin.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Diretcor of Food Supplies):* In Travancore, the price is a little lesser than here. There it appears the control price is not in force.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Is there not restriction on export there also?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* May I point out to the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri that cultivators having one acre and less of tapioca cultivation, do not come within the scope of the Tapioca Control Order.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I am glad that it is pointed out. In spite of that, the incident I narrated before took place. He was arrested, he was charged, he was convicted and he came out of jail only a few days ago.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* Did the Hon'ble Member defend the accused?

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: It is not a question of my defending him.

Mr. President: If you had only brought to the notice of the Magistrate that the accused was cultivating less than one acre, I think he would have been set free.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: There is the Police, they will not after all withdraw their hands. I am only placing the grievances of the people and want the Government to understand things. Instead of that, the Hon'ble Member for Police is putting the question whether I did not defend the accused.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: It was open to the accused himself if he was not defended, to bring to the notice of the trying Court the flaw in the charge, and even otherwise, the trying Court could have and must have taken notice if the charge was out of order, and I am not very sure whether to accept the proposition that the man was convicted under an irregularity. And even now it is open to the Hon'ble Member, if he is his defence vakil, to move the appellate court and get the mistake rectified.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I am glad. But the question is whether a man could be taken into custody on a misinterpretation of the Act or want of understanding of the Act on the part of the Police and the cure being had by defending the accused and pointing out the defects of the charge to the trying authority. If only the Government will realise that prevention is better than cure, I am sure that our Hon'ble Member for Police would certainly not have given me this answer. My question, Sir, is not why he could not get out of the clutches of the law. My question is why did the Police lay the charge without knowing what is covered by the Order.

Mr. President: The point will be looked into.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I am so glad of it, Sir.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: My point is that we are going on a hypothetical proposition.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: No, no, what I have said are true facts.

Mr. President: I have already said that this will be considered.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know, Sir, why as in the case of paddy, commandeering of tapioca is not being adopted?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: It was thought it would be possible to get enough even without commandeering.

Mr. President: There is another reason. When the rains set in, we cannot have it cut and dried. If the Government commandeered tapioca, they would have to find places for cutting and drying and during the monsoon it may not be possible and then the tapioca would go bad.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know what is the total amount of tapioca produced in the State.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Till last year it was calculated at 30,000 tons. This year it may be a little more.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: What is the total acreage of land under tapioca cultivation?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Nearly 22,000 acres.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: According to your calculation, you have put it as 7 tons per acre in the budget. Why is there a different calculation adopted. My submission is the Government have no correct information.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: This year it will be a little more. We have given the figures for last year.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know what is the number of tons of tapioca that is considered by the Government sufficient for consumption here; because of the answer that according to the Government there is no sufficient tapioca production in the State for local consumption, I would like to know what is the number of tons of tapioca which the Government think will be sufficient for consumption at home. Have you got statistics to show it. That is the question.

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Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The average of our sales is 250 tons and large quantities are also sold by private licensees. Private sale is encouraged. We cannot give the exact tonnage.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Are you leaving any margin for the grower?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: What is the percentage left over?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There is no commandeering. Only the price is fixed. We have arranged to leave some margin of profit.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I was not speaking of profit.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Can I have a concrete answer to my question? What is the number of towns required for local consumption?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I cannot say that.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur)*: In view of the food shortage, will the Government be pleased to make the control a little more elastic?

Mr. President: It is impossible to give the figure straightaway. The need for tapioca is not very great in normal times. In normal times we get plenty of rice and other food grains and then the consumption of tapioca is less. In normal times, the production of tapioca in the State is considerably less than it is now. On the other hand a large quantity used to be imported from Travancore. Then we had a large supply of rice from Rangoon and so the consumption of tapioca was much less than now. At the present time the demand for tapioca is much greater. There will be changes from time to time. It depends on the amount of food grains we are able to import. At the present time it is not possible to say exactly what the quantity required is. It is very large. In normal times we used to get supplies from Travancore. Nowadays we require large quantities of tapioca to maintain life and every effort has to be made to get the maximum quantity available for ourselves.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether the Government will be pleased to purchase the whole stock of tapioca, as it is and not insist on its being dried before purchase. Will they issue instructions to their Assistant Supplies Officers to this effect.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The difficulty has already been pointed out by the Hon'ble President.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkanchcri)*: That means, they will not be able to do it. Do the Government understand that a great difficulty is caused to the ryots?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: We are encouraging private sales also.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: You say you are allowing private sales either in lump or in retail. You ask them you may sell privately and keep accounts. Are the tapioca growers competent to undergo all this process? Are they made to do this for the sin of having grown tapioca? Therefore, I say, the Government must be pleased to purchase any quantity of tapioca when it is fit for being plucked and the amount should be paid at the spot. Otherwise, you are discouraging the cultivation of tapioca and thereby doing a harm to the food supply drive that you are having. These things may be noted, Sir. Of course, we may get out of tangles by certain technicalities, but the hard fact that is brought forward before this House in all its prominence is that the difficulties experienced by the ryots may be looked into and remedies adopted and the poor cultivators may be helped and their difficulties may be alleviated.

Mr. President: I may assure the Hon'ble Member that as much tapioca as possible will be purchased for sale in our fair price shops and in our retail shops. We will continue to do so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I only say that these points may be viewed in the proper perspective. Let the poor cultivators be saved from difficulties. That is the request. Please give definite orders, strict orders and bring the offenders to book if they go out of the way.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether the Government are purchasing tapioca from any private person in Travancore? Is the purchase entrusted to a private person there?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: We have arranged to purchase it through a private person.

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Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: May I know the name of that person?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: We have entrusted it to a merchant there. I do not remember his name.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: I want to know his name.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: I want notice.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: What are the conditions under which the arrangement is made? Have not the Government entered into an agreement with that merchant? I want to know what the conditions of that agreement are.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There are no conditions. We have fixed a price and then entered into a contract and we pay the money for the quantity supplied.

Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin-Christian Mattancheri)*: What is the margin of profit allowed?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Of course, we allow him a margin of profit to cover expenses and other incidental charges. I think the name of the merchant is Mr. Ismail Kunhi.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)*: Is he a Cochin State man or a Travancorean?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: He is a Travancore man.

51. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of applications from agriculturists from the Talappalli Taluk received by the Assistant Supply Officer, Vadakkancheri, intending sale of tapioca to Government depots in the months of Medam and Edavam 1118;

(*b*) what is the reply given to these agriculturists;

(*c*) is the Government aware that by the control of tapioca the Government is discouraging tapioca growers from future cultivation as the price control system has become a heavy hardship on the cultivators entailing heavy losses?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) 15.

(*b*) Orders were given to them to sell their tapioca to the local retailers and fair price shops according to the requirements and also to sell to private persons in small quantities not exceeding 20 lbs.

(*c*) No.

FUEL-HIGH COST OF

52. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether in regard to the scarcity of fire-wood in Municipal areas

(*a*) any resolution had been tabled or questions asked in the last Meenam Session of the Council;

(*b*) the news-papers have brought this subject to the notice of the Government;

(*c*) the Trichur Municipal Council has passed a resolution on this subject; and

(*d*) any measures have been taken?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) Yes, there was a resolution tabled.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Arrangements are made by the Conservator of Forests to supply fuel at a cheap rate to public of Trichur by delivery at the door of the consumer on requisition, fuel at Rs. 16 a cart-load of about 2 tons.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)*: In view of the resolution tabled and the subject being brought to the notice of the Government by news-papers may I know whether the Government have got any constructive suggestions?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The suggestion was to start depots. Government thought it was not necessary in view of the fact that the Conservator is successfully taking fuel to every door and selling it at Rs. 16.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur)*: Are the Government sure that a cart contains 2 tons?

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